(b) whether Government are aware that Orissa is the centre of Buddhist sites/monuments, which need to be developed to boost tourism, to improve the economy of this back ward region; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to help the State both financially and physically to develop these sites?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Important Buddhist protected monuments/sites under the control of the Archaeologial Survey of India, such as excavated remains at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Langudi hill and Asokan rock edict sites, such as Dhauli and Jaugada are receiving adequate attention by way of archaeological conservation, environment development etc. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 740.67 lakhs in 2004-05 for the development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa for development of facilities at Langudi and other Buddhist places.

Conservation of historical monuments in Andhra Pradesh

158. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposals during the year 2006 from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh requesting financial assistance for conservation of historical monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of each such proposal indicating the outlay involved and the funds sanctioned/released so far against each proposal; and

(c) the details of the work plans of the Central Government for conservation of historical monuments in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The conservation plan for 2006-07 involves day to day maintenance and conservation in the 137 centrally protected monuments and 107 sanctioned works for structural conservation/environmental development in selected monuments. An allocation of Rs. 645.00 lakhs has been made for the centrally protected monuments of Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year.